proposals are included in the Annual Plans subject to the framework and the guidelines laid down in the 7th 5 year Plan. For 1988-89, the Ministry has received proposals from the State Governments/ Union Territories and these relate to central financial assistance for infrastructure development at tourist centres, cultural tourism, beach tourism; wildlife tourism, yatri niwases; adventure and sports tourism, flood lighting of monuments, sound and lightshows etc. The Ministry does not allocate funds either State-wise or project-wise but scheme-wise. The Ministry provides financial assistance to States for creation of tourism infrastructure on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Governments. These proposals are taken up for financial assistance subject to the potential of the place, existing infrastruture existing and projected tourist traffic, overall merits of the proposal, viability of the project, availability of the project, availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education

610. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education was held in the second week of September, 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details of discussions held and conclusions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of education are given in the attached statement. [*See* Appendix CXLVIII Annexure No. 30].

Shortage of maritime officers

611. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether shipping industry in the country is facing shortage of maritime officers, especially nevigating and engineering officers; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to overcome this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Some of the shipping companies have reported shortage of merchant navy officers.

(b) The intake of cadets in T.S. Rajendra and Directorate of Marine Engineering Training, Calcutta has been increased.

Tritium obtained by Pakistan for nuclear warheads

612. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is making efforts to obtain Tritium, an element used to increase the power of nuclear warheads, in order to develop thermonuclear weapons; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to counter this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government are aware of such reports.

(b) Government maintain a constant vigil on all developments having a bearing on the country's security. Our apprehensions regarding the clandestine procurement by Pakistan of materials for its weapons-oriented nucelar programme have been conveyed to all concerned.